CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An audio equipment comprising:

a power supply;

a battery pack charger connected to the power supply;

a circuit for producing an audio signal connected to the power supply; and

a battery pack for use with a power tool, the battery pack removably connected to the battery pack charger for charging.

2. The equipment of Claim 1, wherein the battery pack is rechargeable.

3. The equipment of Claim 1, further comprising a housing supporting the power supply, the battery pack charger and the audio circuit; and a receptacle assembly for receiving the battery pack flexibly connected to the main housing.

4. The equipment of Claim 3, wherein the receptacle assembly comprises a receptacle housing and a flexible gasket disposed between the receptacle housing and the main housing.

5. The equipment of Claim 4, wherein the receptacle assembly further comprises at least one retainer disposed on the housing to prevent disengagement of the gasket.

6. The equipment of Claim 4, wherein the gasket is made of rubber or elastometer.

7. The equipment of Claim 3, further comprising a door hingably connected to the main housing and opposite of the receptacle assembly.

8. The equipment of Claim 7, wherein the door has a spring disposed thereon to bias a battery disposed in the receptacle assembly towards a connecting position.

9. The equipment of Claim 1, wherein the circuit is a radio circuit.

10. The equipment of Claim 1, wherein a protective shield is disposed on said housing to prevent damages to said housing.

11. The equipment of Claim 10, wherein said shield is a bar.

12. The equipment of Claim 10, wherein said shield is adapted to be releasably affixed to the housing.

13. The equipment of Claim 10, wherein said shield is flexibly connected to the housing.

14. The equipment of Claim 13, further comprising a connector assembly flexibly connecting said shield to the housing.

15. The equipment of Claim 14, wherein the connector assembly comprises a flexible gasket.

16. The equipment of Claim 15, wherein the flexible gasket is disposed between the shield and the housing.

17. A method for charging a battery pack comprising:

providing an audio equipment component having a power supply, a circuit for producing an audio signal connected to the power supply and a charger connected to the power supply;

disposing the battery pack in the charger;

providing power to the battery pack; and

removing the battery pack from the charger.

18. The method of Claim 17, further comprising inserting the battery pack into a power tool.

19. The method of Claim 17, further comprising providing power to the radio circuit while providing power to the battery pack.

20. The method of Claim 17, further comprising manually switching the power supply to provide power to the radio circuit from the battery pack.

21. An audio equipment comprising:

a housing;

audio circuitry installed within the housing; and

a first protective shield flexibly connected to the housing.

22. The equipment of Claim 21, further comprising a handle attached to the first protective shield.

23. The equipment of Claim 21, further comprising a connector assembly flexibly connecting the first protective shield to the housing.

24. The equipment of Claim 23, wherein the connector assembly comprises a flexible gasket.

25. The equipment of Claim 24, wherein the flexible gasket is disposed between the first protective shield and the housing.

26. The equipment of Claim 21, further comprising a second protective shield flexibly connected to the housing.

27. The equipment of Claim 21, wherein the first protective shield is a bar.

28. A method of manufacturing an audio equipment, comprising:

making a housing;

providing a first protective shield;

flexibly connecting the first protective shield to the housing.

29. The method of Claim 28, further comprising installing circuitry for producing an audio signal, said circuitry being installed within the housing.

30. The method of Claim 28, further comprising attaching a handle to the first protective shield.

31. The method of Claim 28, wherein connecting the first protective shield to the housing comprising providing a connector assembly between the first protective bar and the housing.

32. The method of Claim 31, wherein the connector assembly comprises a flexible gasket.

33. The method of Claim 28, further comprising flexibly connecting a second protective shield to the housing.

34. The method of Claim 28, wherein the first protective shield is injection-molded.

35. The method of Claim 28, wherein the first protective shield is made using a gas-assist injection molding process.

36. The method of Claim 28, wherein the first protective shield is a bar.

37. An electronic equipment comprising:

a main housing; and

a receptacle assembly for receiving a battery flexibly connected to the main housing.

38. The equipment of Claim 37, wherein the receptacle assembly comprises a receptacle housing and a flexible gasket disposed between the receptacle housing and the main housing.

39. The equipment of Claim 38, wherein the receptacle assembly further comprises at least one retainer disposed on the housing to prevent disengagement of the gasket.

40. The equipment of Claim 38, wherein the gasket is made of rubber or elastometer.

41. The equipment of Claim 37, further comprising a door hingably connected to the main housing and opposite of the receptacle assembly.

42. The equipment of Claim 41, wherein the door has a spring disposed thereon to bias a battery disposed in the receptacle assembly towards a connecting position.

43. An apparatus comprising:

a housing;

an audio circuit for producing an audio signal disposed in the housing;

a charger disposed in the housing;

a receptacle in the charger;

a battery pack detachably connectable in a power tool mounted in the receptacle;

a first electrical circuit in the charger for charging the battery pack and for powering the audio circuit; and

a connector for connecting the first electrical circuit to a power source.

44. The apparatus of Claim 43 wherein the connector is adapted for connection to an AC power source, and the apparatus further comprising a second electrical circuit connectable to the battery pack for powering the radio when the connector is disconnected from an AC power source.

45. The apparatus of Claim 43, wherein the audio circuit is a radio circuit.